

some changes that we have previously discussed and other associated items upon which we can agree. This will be an historic commitment to expand the promise of free enterprise and entrepreneurship to our nation's poor and underserved urban and rural areas.

It is also important that we provide the bipartisan credit for vaccine research and purchases, which will save lives and advance public health, costing about \$1.5 billion over 10 years.

Finally, it is essential for our commitment to economic growth to include the replacement of the Foreign Sales Corporation regime, which has passed the House and Senate with broad bipartisan support, costing about \$4.5 billion over 10 years.

I believe the package I have outlined above can be the basis for bipartisan consensus on a tax package.

While Congress has failed to send me a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights and a voluntary Medicare prescription drug plan for all seniors, I believe it is possible to forge a bipartisan agreement that would expand health care coverage for uninsured working Americans. The best way to do this is through the FamilyCare plan that builds on the successful Children's Health Insurance Program and expands affordable insurance to over four million parents. A deduction for the purchase of private health insurance in the individual nongroup market is an inefficient and costly way to do coverage, is far less equitable than other options that use refundable tax credits, and could lead to private employers dropping health coverage. However, in the spirit of bipartisanship and breaking gridlock, I propose that your deduction be modified to a credit with necessary consumer protections in the individual insurance markets and that the credit be coupled with the bipartisan FamilyCare proposal.

I further believe we should find a common agreement to ease the burden of long-term care on American families. The best means to accomplish this goal is through our proposal to provide a \$3,000 tax credit for people with long-term care needs or the families who care for them. This tax credit would provide immediate assistance to those burdened by these long-term care costs today. While

I cannot support your proposal to turn this into a deduction, on grounds of both equity and effectiveness, if you are willing to support our \$3,000 tax credit, I would be willing to agree to your proposal to provide an enhanced deduction for the purchase of private long-term care insurance provided there are appropriate consumer protections. This bipartisan, long-term care package has already been endorsed by the AARP, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Health Insurance Association of America.

In the spirit of compromise, I believe we can work together quickly to pass this balanced legislation that I can sign into law and that can benefit the American people.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Trent Lott, majority leader of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

### **Remarks at a Birthday Tribute to Hillary Clinton in New York City**

*October 25, 2000*

**Audience members.** Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

**The President.** Wait, wait, wait, wait. You're off message. *[Laughter]*

Look at this guy. This is why I don't have birthdays anymore. *[Laughter]* Has Tom Cruise had a great career, or not? Let's give him a hand. Isn't he wonderful? *[Applause]* Thank you. Bless you.

Now look, before I say anything else, I just want you to know, if anybody has the remotest doubt that in about 90 days I'm going to be perfectly happy to leave the White House and come to New York and be a real, honest-to-goodness New Yorker—*[laughter]*—wait a minute—if you have any doubt about that, here's what I have to say. Forget about it. *[Laughter]* Why are you laughing? Why are they laughing?

**Robert DeNiro.** Well, I told you. I told you, if you want to make it in this town, let's work on this.

Fuggedaboudit. *[Laughter]*

**The President.** Forget about it. [*Laughter*]

**Mr. DeNiro.** Fuggedaboutit.

**The President.** Forget about it!

**Mr. DeNiro.** No, no. Fuggedaboutit. Whatsamaddawhityou? [*Laughter*]  
Fuggedaboutit.

**The President.** You talkindame? [*Laughter*]

**Mr. DeNiro.** Fuggedaboutit.

**The President.** Hey, I know I just got here, but who was that guy, anyway? [*Laughter*]  
Fuggedaboutit. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Robert DeNiro. He has been a wonderful friend to me and to Hillary. And I just appeared between two guys that make more money in 8 minutes than I made in 8 years. [*Laughter*] Maybe they can get me into that apartment we talked about earlier tonight. [*Laughter*]

I have a role tonight. I'm going to play my role. I am campaigning hard out here for Spouse in Chief. And I want to tell you that I met Hillary when she was 23 and I was 24, and we were in law school. And I saw her kind of moseying around the law school, you know. And I'm embarrassed to say, for all you young people who are still students, I hate to admit this, but I was not totally absorbed by my studies at that point in my life. [*Laughter*]

And so I saw Hillary kind of floating around the law school. And she was sort of a presence there and a rather famous figure. I was a scruffy guy who was stylistically challenged. [*Laughter*] And so anyway, I had a lot of sense not to speak to her. I knew, I said, "If I talk to this woman, this is going to be nothing but trouble. I am not going to talk to her." True story.

So one night I was in the library at Yale Law School, and this guy is trying to talk me into joining the Yale Law Review. And I said, "I don't want to be on the Law Review." He said, "But you get to clerk for the Supreme Court." I said, "I don't want to clerk for the Supreme Court." He said, "You'll make more money." I said, "I don't give a damn about that. I want to go home." So he's giving his best pitch, and I see Hillary all the way across the library, and she sees me staring at her. And she put her book down, walked across the library, and she said, "Look, if you're

going to keep looking at me, and I'm going to keep looking back, at least we ought to know each other's names. I'm Hillary Rodham. What's your name?"

I couldn't remember my name. [*Laughter*] Now, that's how we met. I say that to remove any doubt that she has the requisite aggression to be a good New Yorker. [*Laughter*]

I want to tell you that, for me, this is a birthday for Hillary that is filled with gratitude. The people of New York have been so wonderful to me in two Presidential elections and all the years in between. You have, for the last 16 months, opened your hearts to her and given her a chance to make her case. And I am so grateful to you.

You know, we've had a lot of fun here, making fun of politicians, including me. And it's all been in fun. But I'd like to tell you something seriously. When I leave office, after 26 years of running for office or serving in public life, I will be more idealistic about this country than I was the day I took the oath of office as President, the day I took my first public office.

And I've known a lot of people in politics, thousands of them, Republicans and Democrats and the occasional independent. And on balance, I've found them to be good, honest, hard-working people who love our country and do what they think is right. And they're better, on balance, than they get played out in the popular press. But in all these years, I have never, ever, ever known anybody that had the combination of intelligence and heart and consistent caring and persistence and ability to organize and energize other people and get things done that Hillary has. She's the best I have ever known.

And I am quite sure that if she hadn't spent the last 30 years helping me and helping children and families' causes, starting organizations and heading others, and always doing things for other people and never asking anybody until this election to do anything for her, that she would have been doing this years ago. When we met and fell in love, I actually—I told her forthrightly that I almost hated for her to come home to Arkansas and start our life together because I thought she had immense talent, and I felt that I somehow would be depriving her of a public career. So for me, the feelings I have for all

of you for lifting her up and supporting her and giving her a chance to serve this State and serve this Nation are almost inexpressible.

It's worth noting that this seat was held not only by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, one of the great intellects and public servants of the last 50 years, but also by Senator Robert Kennedy, who inspired me and so many people of my generation to believe that we could make a better country. And I want you to know that if you just keep working for 13 more days, she is going to make you profoundly proud that you have helped her in this.

And on top of that, she looks pretty good to be 53 years old, wouldn't you say? So I want you to stand up with me and offer a toast to the next United States Senator from New York.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 p.m. at the Roseland Ballroom. In his remarks, he referred to actors Tom Cruise and Robert DeNiro. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### **Statement on Admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Into the Stability Pact**

*October 26, 2000*

I applaud today's decision by the members of the Stability Pact to welcome the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a new member. Last month the people of Yugoslavia spoke clearly in support of democratic change. The response today from the international community is just as clear. We will stand with the new democratic government as it pursues economic and political reform, meets its international obligations, and works with neighboring countries to promote lasting stability throughout the region.

We helped launch the Stability Pact last year with a common understanding that an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe will be a reality only when the countries of southeast Europe are integrated with the rest of the continent. To achieve this goal, the governments of the region are pressing ahead with reforms; the international community is supporting the region's economic develop-

ment and integration; and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia can now play its own indispensable role in that effort.

At previous Stability Pact conferences, we invited participation by the political opposition in Serbia and by the democratic government in the Republic of Montenegro, both of which had the courage to stand up to the violence and corruption of the Milosevic regime. But we always kept open a chair for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Now the dramatic changes in Belgrade allow the chair for Yugoslavia to be filled. This is a major step towards realizing our shared vision of a region committed to peace, to healing the wounds of war, and to taking its place in a peaceful, undivided, and democratic Europe.

### **Statement on the 2000 Annual Report on School Safety**

*October 26, 2000*

I am pleased that the 2000 Annual Report on School Safety released today by the Departments of Justice and Education shows that crime and violence in our Nation's schools continue to decline. Since 1992, rates of serious crime, including violent crime, have declined steadily in our schools, and the number of non-fatal crimes in schools is down by more than 21 percent. Between 1992 and 1997, the number of students who report carrying a weapon to school decreased by 25 percent. School homicides, which remain extremely rare, are also on the decline. This report provides encouraging data that our efforts to protect our children are having an impact.

Since Vice President Gore and I took office, we have encouraged communities to come together to ensure that our schools are safe places for learning. By making school safety a top priority, our administration has helped provide more and better-trained police officers in schools, vastly increased funding for after-school programs, required zero tolerance for guns in schools, and funded more mentors and school counselors to help our kids stay on the right track.

We owe it to our children to make sure that crime in school continues to decline. We can continue our progress by supporting